The Prydonian RENEGADE

Vol. V, #4 July, 1988 Prydonians of Prynceton Newsletter

COME PICNIC WITH US!

On Sunday, July 31, we will be holding the Great Gallifreyan Gala IV and First Servalan Family Barbecue. This is our annual summer picnic, which will be from 10 am to 7 pm at Mercer County Park East Picnic Ground, where it was held last year. Directions are given below.

This all-day event, open to all club members, family, and friends, will feature a cookout, sports and games, and live entertainment. In fact, we *anticipate* (or is that dread?) a return appearance of the Not Ready for Prime Time and Space Players!

The club will provide charcoal, lighter fluid, ice, and paper goods. We're asking all attendees to bring their own main dish and also a salad, a dessert, chips of some kind, or soda to share with everyone else. Please call Kim Neighbor at 609-396-2858 to find out what you can bring.

All the club's merchandise will be available at the Gala, including some great new stuff. The fanzine library will also have a reading table set up for club member perusal.

We will also need volunteers to help set up and clean up, to offer rides to and from the site, to help shuttle people to and from the train station, and to bring sporting goods, games, and whatever else may liven up the day--no water guns! (By the way, the club assumes no responsibility for anything that may happen to any equipment or other personal property brought to the Gala.) If you'd like to help out (and we really need your help!) call Tom Beck at 609-921-8148. Thanks!

For those of you without transportation, we will try to arrange rides or pick you up at a nearby train station.

Family and friends (whether members or not) are welcome. See you at the Great Gallifreyan Gala IV!

Directions:

From Pennsylvania:
1) Come up I95 North
2) It will become Rt 295 South in NJ
3) Continue on Rt. 295 S. to the Sloan Ave Exit
4) Get off the 2nd Sloan Ave Exit (a left off of 295 onto Sloan.
5) Follow Sloan until it deadends (Sloan becomes Flock Rd) into a 'T' intersection.
6) At the deadend, make a left onto Edinburg Rd. (which becomes Old Trenton Rd.).
7) Continue on Old Trenton Rd. past: Mercer College Comm. College and other entrances to Merc. Co. Park.
8) At the next traffic light, turn left onto Mercer County Rt 526 also known as Edinburg Rd.
9) East Picninc Area will be on the left.

From the north:
1) Take Rt. 1 South going past Princeton.
2) Take Rt. 295 South to the Sloan Ave. Exit.
3. Follow above directions from #4 on.

From South Jersey:
1) Go north on Rts. 130, 295 or 260 to Bordentown.
2) Proceed north on Rt. 260 to Rt. 295.
3) Take Rt. 295 north to first Sloan Ave. exit and proceed as in #5 above.

SEVEN LOSERS ALL WINNERS

Our PLEDGE FOR POUNDS for New Jersey SIDS concluded May 31st with a total of 108 pounds lost. Pat Betz was the big winner (how can we call her a loser) with a fantastic loss of 25 pounds. All seven members of the team managed to lose weight, with 5 pounds being the smallest amount.

On Friday evening, June 17th, club members Dorothy Case, Tom Beck and Karlene Hartel attended the monthly meeting of New Jersey SIDS near Freehold where they presented monies totaling $635.00 to Chapter President, Jan Snyder. They, in turn, were presented with a certificate of appreciation for the club.

Team captain and organizer, Dorothy Case, wishes to thank team members Pat Betz, Tom Beck, Karlene Hartel, Cathy Boudreau, Cindy Henry and Julie Florez for their efforts and a job well done. Also a special thank you to all of you who made pledges or gave donations. A double thanks to Jan Snyder, who suported us in our efforts and is one terrific person.

Those of you who still have pledges outstanding or would still like to make a contribution should send them to Dorothy Case at 250 Morris Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08611. Checks should be make out to NJ SIDS.

Doctor Who Cruise Sets Sail

The SS Galileo will sail from Miami on November 20, 1988, on a 5 day cruise, with invited guests and 100 fans, in celebration of *Doctor Who*'s 25th Anniversary. Details next month.

Editorial

So many of you have written or phoned to tell me how much you liked my first issue. All of you, thank you. It was an interesting exercise--the first of, dare I say, many. Thanks also to all of you who contributed and made my work easier.

With this issue, I am working with my own new software so there should be a steady improvement in format as I learn my program's ins and outs. But again, I can only format what I am given. You've heard of New Years resolutins. Well I have a Help the New Editor Resolution. Repeat after me, "I, _____, resolve to contribute to the newsletter at least once a year, even if its only a letter.

Which brings us to a subject dear (?) to everyone's heart. A recent local club's newsletter made mention about our club always begging for money. That hurt a bit. Not because it isn't true. But because it has become so obviously noticeable as to be mentioned in other newsletters. The facts are: the dues have not gone up since the club's inception while costs have, we have a very large membership but only a small group actively participate in club activities and fund-raising, most members are quite happy just receiving a good (I hope), informative, and regular (we haven't missed a month yet) newsletter.

The truth is, especially with the new postal hike, the yearly dues do not cover the cost of publishing our monthly newsletter, which is the major expenditure of this club. The cost is supplemented by a small army of dedicated members who: donate their time working at conventions so we can get a free table in order to sell club items (some of which we develop and produce ourselves) and items we agent for others, run 50/50's at club functions, donate items and work flea markets for the club, donate food and drink for club functions, and those special people, who know who they are, who donate or loan us funds in particularly hard times. I think it is time to spread out the responsibility of our club's solvency among all members.

Members of the High Council have discussed raising the dues so that the newsletter will come closer to paying for itself. We propose the following dues structure to take effect October 1, 1988: individual ($8), family ($9) and student/senior to remain at $6. What we need now is a dialogue among the membership. What is your pleasure? All responses will be published in future Renegades.

And KEEP THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS COMING! The fifteenth of the preceding month is the deadline for each newsletter.

CONTRIBUTORS, THIS ISSUE-Thank you: Tom Beck, Cathy Boudreasu, Dorothy Case, Kathy Coy, Rosa Field, Barbara Lefler Jackson, Cindy Rancourt and Chris Rywalt.

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Letters to the Renegade

Dear Prydonians:

Once again it is time for me to renew my membership, beginning my third year as a Prydonian. Enclosed is my $6.

The last time I renewed my mem bership, I wrote that you'd be seeing my writing contribution within the year. It, too, is enclosed. It is a rather long editorial/critique about the deplorable state Doctor Who has fallen to. I humbly submit it for publication.

I am meanwhile working occasionally on a Doctor Who story which you maybe will see before I'm 90. The editorial will have to do for now, however.

As for your publication, it has made interesting cannon fodder as well as edifying reading for my own giant Martian mutant chimpanzee, Rex. Keep him happy; keep the magazine coming.

Yours,
Chris Rywalt

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High Council

Tom Beck, 216 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540, 609-921-8148.

Cathy E. Boudreau, 412 Columbus Avenue, Tuckahoe, NY 10707, 914-337-1621.

Linda Anne Lineaweaver, 4D8 Arbor Green, Beverly, NJ 08010, 609-877-3464. M

Maureen Mulholland, 1203 Noreen Drive, Burlington Township, NJ 08016, 609-386-6813

Kim Elaine Neighbor, 717 Trumbull Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, 609-396-2858.

UPDATED GUEST LISTS

The updated guest list for SCORPIO VI (from Cindy Rancourt on 6/22/88) has, from *Blakes 7*, Gareth Thomas, Terry Nation, Sally Knyvette, Brian Croucher, Sheelagh Wells, Michael Keating and David Jackson; from *Robin of Sherwood*, there are Michael Praed and Clyde Mantle and Lewis Collins from The *Professionals*. SCORPIO VI is soldout, but many from the area have tickets.

In is the newest list of confirmed guests for GAMBIT, from Cathy Boudreau on 6/21/88, included Paul Darrow, Michael Keating, Janet Lees Price, Sheelagh Wells, David Jackson and Jacqueline Pearce. Cathy also said that they were up to 118 memberships. Not bad for just 2 months.

Members, attending these or any conventions, should keep in mind that the guest lists keep changing right up to the weekend of the convention due to professional commitments. Last minute cancellations and substitutions mean that arriving at a convention can be full of disappointments or pleasant surprises.

WINDOW ON THE STARS:

COLIN BAKER is touring in "Deathtrap" through June 30.

TOM BAKER was, until recently, playing in "Musical Murders of 1940" at the Greenwich.

PAUL DARROW is curently playing Elvis, to rave reviews, in "Are You Lonesome Tonight."

PETER DAVISON has decided, with the close of this year's filming of "All Creature Great and Small," to move to the United States with his wife, actress Sandra Dickinson. They intend to spend at least 8 months out of the year in this country.

LOUISE JAMESON is soon to appear in the series "Bergerec."

MICHAEL KEATING is touring in "Sufficiently Carbohydrates." The production is due to end sometime in June.

BONNIE LANGFORD is currently co-starring in "Me and My Gal" in the West End.

JACQUELINE PEARCE can be seen in "White Mischief," a movie, R- rated, currently in limited release here.

JOSETTE SIMON is still appearing with the Royal Shakespeare Company as Isabella in "Measure for Measure."

GARETH THOMAS recently finished episodes for the series "After the War," for Granada TV.

LIBNOTES: A FANZINE REVIEW

by Barbara Leflar Jackson

I read "THE TOTALLY IMAGINARY CHEESEBOARD" in one sitting. My husband fixed his own dinner (and the dog's), I didn't do that load of wash, and a good pen-friend had to wait an extra day for her letter. In fact, if the house had caught fire I would have retreated to a safe distance with the 'zine and a flashlight to finish it undisturbed. Such is the power of this little story.

The premise has often been used...a science fiction character (in this case Avon) is accidentally swapped for his actor counterpart (Paul Darrow) in the 20th century. But "Cheeseboard" proves that a simple premise can be made rich indeed. The writers, Jean Airey and Laurie Haldeman, have done a wonderful job and managed to avoid most of the pitfalls of fanzine writing. The story is evenly paced, is told by character interactions rather than stream-of-consciousness ramblings, and there is sufficient description to feed the mind's eye. The plot is a bit thin in places, but it progresses in an orderly fashion.

The illustrations by Gail Bennett are lovely and enhance the text so well that they were obviously drawn for this purpose.

"Cheeseboard" centers around the trials and tribulations of Avon, the guests and the staff of a three day fan-run convention. At first, Avon is no readier to believe that he has come backwards in time than the convention guests (Gareth Thomas, Michael Keating, Jacqueline Pearce and Sheelagh Wells) are ready to believe he is really Kerr Avon. Once identities are established, however, Avon emerges as a wary and calculating man who feels threatened by the situation and uses his own brand of charisma to manipulate those around him, even holding his gofers virtual hostages to ensure his own safety.

If the above sounds depressingly heavy, it isn't. The piece is written with a light touch, and the account of Avon's escorted 3 AM trip through a Chicago convenience store (in black leather pants!) is almost worth the price of the 'zine. Nor have the writers filled their pages with Avon to the exclusion of others. There is a balance here as relationships between the characters are explored while they are attempting to adjust to an impossible situation. Michael Keating is especially graphically (and gently) portrayed.

So if you are willing, these ladies have quite a tale to tell you! It won't even cost you very much. The 50 page 'zine is less than ten dollars. For ordering information, SASE to Jean Airey, 1306 W. Illinois, Aurora, IL 60506. Attend a convention with Avon today! (But don't make any sudden moves.)

DATES AT A GLANCE

July 16-17: Creation con, Franklin Plaza Hotel, Phila.
July 29-31: TIMECON '88, San Jose, CA
July 30-31: Creation con, Penta Hotel, NY

July 31: Prydonian Picnic (article this issue)

Aug 5-7: SCORPIO VI, Chicago, Il (information this issue)
Aug 6-7: Creation con, Penta Hotel, NY
Aug 12-14: TARDISCON, St. Louis, MO

No August Assembly due to other club and area activities
Sept 10: scheduled September Assembly

Nov 11-13: SPECTRUM (multi-media), Baltimore, MD
Feb 10-12, 1989: GAMBIT, Newark, NJ (information this issue)
Apr 28-30: FREEDOM CITY, Towson, MD

More Letters:

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Dear Prydonians:

I'd like to say how pleased I was with Linda Anne Lineaweaver's first edition of The Renegade. As former editor, I know how tough a job it is that I so unceremoniously dumped in her lap. I thank Linda Anne for courageously taking over after my abdication and for getting off to such a good start. The Renegade is in good hands.

By the way, you may have noticed last month's "tag line," following the publication statement, which read "A new editor--at last," and wondered whether or not Linda Anne was poking gentle fun at me. Actually, I supplied that tag line myself.

Personal reasons forced me to step down as editor. I admire Linda Anne for being willing to take over, and I'm grateful to her as well. With everyone's continued help, she can continue to keep The Renegade in topnotch form.

Tom Beck

Dear Linda Anne:

Welcome to the organization of Insane Newsletter Editors Intergalactic. The group was founded by Rodney Dangerfield, and our motto is, "We get no respect."

Now that Tom Beck has taken a sabbatical to spend time on Pluto Studying the effects of the *Blakes 7* universe on Rocky and Bullwinkle, it is your turn to learn the terror of waking up to...Blank Space! Then, once you get the space filled and the newsletter out, those who read it will find something wrong to point out to you. Or worse, you'll write something in a half-sleep daze and will have to face a horde of ridiculers. But you have the opportunity for the last laugh - the pun is mightier than the neutron blaster.

It is none too early to start compiling your files on others' likes and dislikes to use as bribery and extortion to get them to write articles or, as the time approaches, to take over (again) as editor. Another useful tool of revenge is to call an acquaintance (friend?) at 3 am to discuss a new article idea which you had, since they didn't get around to contributing anything.

Good luck, Madam Editor, and enjoy your reign as - Supreme Commander.

Sincerely,
Rosa Field
Editor, TP Crystal
The Sopron Alliance

Dear Linda Anne:

I heard from Boudreau that you could use some contributions for the Prydonian newsletter. I, Servalan Servalanadanna, would like to help.

Why, just the other day I received a letter from Mr. Travis Feder of Fort Lee, New Earthey, asking me: Servalan Servalanadanna, how do you go about contributing to a newsletter? Do you have to have something to say? If you don't want to say it, can you write it down? Do you èhave to use big words? Do you have to know big words? Do you have to know which end of a sentence goes first? Can you write with gloves on? Does your contribution have to have social significance? Does it have to have any significance? Do you have to be significant?

Mr. Travis Feder, you ask an awful lot of questions for someone from New Earthey. But you are in luck, because I, Servalan Servalanadanna, know all about newsletters. One time, I received this newsletter in the mail...and it was all pretty, printed nice and sharp on a laser printer, and the sheets of paper were bright white, and all the columns started at the top, and it had pretty little black lines running up and down so you wouldn't read right across the page and have to sort out three or four different things at the same time - And right on the back page, my label was printed in some kinda green stuff, I don't know what it was! It smeared all over my thumb! My thumb looked like an avocado!

I said to myself, hey, Servalan Servalanadanna, what is this stuff? Why doesn't it stay on the label? Can I get a skin disease from this stuff? Who sent me this newsletter anyway? How can I find out if it was an authorized distributor? How can I find out if it was a healthy authorized distributor? Does this green stuff all over my thumb mean that if I wear red, I'll have to explain to everybody what Christmas is? Madam Presidents have more important things to do than look like smeared holiday decorations. Why, it takes six months just to write out the invitations for Christmas dinner to all the Servalanadannas in the Federation!

You know, it's just like when all the Servalanadannas are together in Residence One for Christmas dinner, and the table is set up with all kinds of fancy crystal glasses, and silver forks and spoons, and the plates are so shiny and white that you can see your face in them, unless you asked for a black plate because you're using another identity and you don't want anyone to know who you are, and we bring out a great big turkey with the head still on so we can put lots of little pieces of parsley all around its head like curly hair, and there's little 'tater-troopers, and delta-veggies and lots of ketchup for nice color, and all the Servalanadannas bow their heads and clasp their hands over their personal guns and say the Servalanadanna family grace:

"We're not known for our niceness, We're considered quite mean,

Maybe our hearts are like granite, But at least our thumbs aren't green.

"Thank you for dinner, Servalan Servalanadanna. Did you know you didn't put any knives out?"

Good night, my little Linda Anne Lineaweaver,

Servalan Servalanadanna

Thanks for sharing, all of you. Keep those letters coming.

IS THE DOCTOR IN DECLINE?

by Chris Rywalt

Has anyone noticed what's wrong with *Doctor Who* lately? Has anyone noticed a decline in quality in the latest episodes? I have, and I must say that it worries me to see my favourite television show decay the way *Doctor Who* has recently.

The drop was evident in Colin Baker's last season, but I thought he would have been able to pull the show up had he been given a chance. The decision to remove him won't be discussed here, but that alone shows the beginning of the fall. The introduction of Sabalom Glitz was further evidence; as wonderful a character as he is, in hindsight, he can be seen as a precursor of the newest episodes.

What is really wrong with the latest episodes, in particular Sylvester McCoy's first season, can be summed up in one word: comedy. The final episodes of "Trial of a Time Lord" were funny in many ways, and the strange characters found wandering around in the Matrix were generally done in broad comedic terms. Considering the plot, this was not a bad thing. They were, however, foreshadows of the characters introduced during McCoy's first few episodes. The newest season seems devoted entirely to introducing us to wildly eccentric and odd characters in the most illogical contexts possible, spending two out of four episodes examining them, and then spending the last two episodes trying to explain them and push through a plot. Doctor Who has failed disastrously on all counts.

One of the fundamental tenets of successful science fiction movies and television shows is that the production must be taken absolutely seriously. This seriousness, despite the fantastic situations basic to science fiction, is necessary for the full effect of the production. If the actors, for example, don't seem to believe what they're doing, then how can the audience suspend their disbelief?

Jon Pertwee is a perfect example of this; although he didn't always understand his lines or exactly what was happening, he played the Doctor with gravity and seriousness. This lent credibility to the shows he was in, despite the consistently awful special effects which characterize his stint as the Doctor. McCoy's buffoonery approach, while perfectly welcome in "Monty Python's The Secret Policemen's Other Ball", is deadly to the Doctor. I think, though, that McCoy would do quite well if only the scripts weren't so ridiculous.

I watched the first two episodes of the new season with anxiousness. I wanted to see how Sylvester McCoy would handle the Doctor. "Time and the Rani" was a good episode, although it had its silly points. All *Doctor Who* episodes have their silly points; that's their charm. Tom Baker was always very witty, even under fire (who can forget "cognito ergo schlum"?). Even William Hartnell had his moments. "Paradise Towers," however, was terrible from beginning to end. It is a perfect example of what is wrong with *Doctor Who* today. "Delta and the Bannerman," as far as I watched before turning it off in disgust, only followed the same pattern.

"Paradise Towers" began with silliness and ended with silliness. The whole situation was just plain silly: a genius architect builds the Utopian apartment complex (shades of condos!) and then decides that it's too good for people to live èin. The few people left after everyone goes off to a war build a warped society and the builder begins to wipe them out. The whole premise seems written to introduce the widest variety of ridiculous characters, from Pecks, the coward, to the builder himself. If the series weren't so pathetic, it would be funny, with children that have grown up without parents staging gang fights, and cannibalistic elderly people living in the apartments, how seriously can this be taken?

It seems to me that as many inexplicable situations and characters as possible were introduced in as little time as possible, to confuse the viewer and perhaps pique his curiosity. Then these seemingly unrelated bits were explained by a single cause, which was to drive the action of the storyline. Once the Doctor has everything figured out, he helps to solve the problem and normalize the situations and characters as much as possible. This was done to much greater effect in Tom Baker's time with Leela's introductory episode, "The Face of Evil," and to a slightly lesser effect with Colin Baker in "Attack of the Cyberman."

What *Doctor Who* needs now is a return to tradition: return to Earth, more from UNIT perhaps, more conventional storylines, less eccentric characters (stop with Glitz's level of oddness), and much more seriousness in the scripts. The slapstick must be removed! Comedy is good, and so is eccentricity and originality, but to great excess they can be endlessly tedious. *Doctor Who* is not beyond hope--let's pray the direction changes for Season 25!

One more thing--can't anything be done about the incidental music?

Thank you, Chris. We will look forward to more from you, as promised. Maybe this gets some discussion going on the new Doctor.

REMINDERS AND TIDBITS:

The Prydonians have a private section, for club members only, on the TARDIS BBS. It is called Section 13 and is accessed through E-mail to Tom Beck. Call (609)448-1361 for lively talks and current DW/B7 news.

Terry Nation will be conducting writers workshops locally. Attendance is limited to only 20 persons at each seminar. So, if you haven't already, get those SASE's in to CELEBRITY FORUM PRODUCTIONS, P.O. Box 1786, Palisades, CA 90272 for more information.

Our 1988 *Doctor Who* Story Contest is ongoing through August 27th so get those stories in (We have yet to receive our first submission). They can be on any aspect of the series, must be typed, original and never published (or being considered for publication anywhere), less than 2000 words, and must be accompanied by a $1 entry fee. Mail your story to our PO Box, put your name on every page and keep a copy for yourself.

Our Club Pen-Pal Service hasn't had much action recently. A few months ago we matched up the first six respondents to the idea; we'd like to hear how it's going for you. Anyone else wanting a club pen-pal, send us a letter giving your age, hobbies, interests (Doctor Who, Blakes 7, or both), etc., and we will match you up with another member. After that, you're on your own.

Ruth Albano, our travel agent for Scorpio VI has requested that I print the names of all persons for whom she is holding tickets. If your name is not on this list but you gave Ruth money for your ticket, please contact her at 609-585-7590 or me at 609-877-3464 immediately: P. Angulo, T. Beck, L. Berg, P. Betz, P. Bishof, C. Boudreau, D. Case, D. Cranmer, S. Conner, K. and L. Hartel, M. London, M. Malkin, C. Rancourt, P. Rokuski, W. Sommerall, H. Woolverton and S. Zwanger.

TARDISCON '88 is fast approaching. If you are thinking of going, don't wait much longer. Colin Baker, Michael Keating and John Leeson are the expected, and still confirmed, guests. It's August 12-14, at the Park Terrace Airport Hilton Hotel in St. Louis, MO. A check for $35.00, for a three day pass, should be sent payable to the Celestial Intervention Agency and mailed, with a SASE, to TARDISCON, PO Box 733, St. Louis, MO 63188.

See you there.

PRYDONIANS of PRYNCETON

PO Box 3194
Princeton, NJ 08543-3194

TRENTON, NJ JUL 5 PM 1988

Karen and Scott 10/88
Avenue
Audubon, NJ 08106

Warning! If your address label is printed in *green*, your membership expires at the end of next month.

If your address label is printed in *red*, your membership expires with this issue. This will be your last issue of *The Renegade* unless you renew your dues by the end of this month.

Dated Material—*Please Rush!*

OCT 1988

WHYY Fundraiser in August

August is fundraising time for WHYY, Channel 12. We have been invited, along with the Unearthly Children and the Cygnus Alphans to work on August 13 and 20. Both are Saturdays and both days will be from approximately 2:30-6:00 PM. To work one, or both, days, call Barbara Teichert at 215-688-5638.

Let's show our support for PBS and especially 12 for giving us Blakes 7 and Doctor Who. If you can't volunteer to work either of these days, remember to call in and make a pledge. Don't forget to mention how much you appreciate their showing our favorite programs.